

House \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Offered By \_\_\_\_\_

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 492,  
2 Page 1, Section A, Line 3, by inserting immediately after said line the following:

3  
4 "160.545. 1. There is hereby established within the department of elementary and secondary  
5 education the "A+ Schools Program" to be administered by the commissioner of education. The  
6 program shall [consist of grant awards made to] require public secondary schools that apply to be an  
7 A+ school to demonstrate a commitment to ensure that:

8 (1) All students be graduated from school;

9 (2) All students complete a selection of high school studies that is challenging and for which  
10 there are identified learning expectations; and

11 (3) All students proceed from high school graduation to a college or postsecondary  
12 vocational or technical school or high-wage job with work place skill development opportunities.

13 2. The state board of education shall promulgate rules and regulations for the approval of  
14 [grants made under the program to] schools that:

15 (1) Establish measurable districtwide performance standards for the goals of the program  
16 outlined in subsection 1 of this section; and

17 (2) Specify the knowledge, skills and competencies, in measurable terms, that students must  
18 demonstrate to successfully complete any individual course offered by the school, and any course of  
19 studies which will qualify a student for graduation from the school; and

20 (3) Do not offer a general track of courses that, upon completion, can lead to a high school  
21 diploma; and

22 (4) Require rigorous coursework with standards of competency in basic academic subjects  
23 for students pursuing vocational and technical education as prescribed by rule and regulation of the  
24 state board of education; and

25 (5) Have a partnership plan developed in cooperation and with the advice of local business  
26 persons, labor leaders, parents, and representatives of college and postsecondary vocational and  
27 technical school representatives, with the plan then approved by the local board of education. The  
28 plan shall specify a mechanism to receive information on an annual basis from those who developed  
29 the plan in addition to senior citizens, community leaders, and teachers to update the plan in order to  
30 best meet the goals of the program as provided in subsection 1 of this section. Further, the plan shall  
31 detail the procedures used in the school to identify students that may drop out of school and the

Action Taken \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1 intervention services to be used to meet the needs of such students. The plan shall outline counseling  
2 and mentoring services provided to students who will enter the work force upon graduation from  
3 high school, address apprenticeship and intern programs, and shall contain procedures for the  
4 recruitment of volunteers from the community of the school to serve in schools receiving program  
5 grants.

6 3. A school district may participate in the program irrespective of its accreditation  
7 classification by the state board of education, provided it meets all other requirements.

8 4. [By rule and regulation, the state board of education may determine a local school district  
9 variable fund match requirement in order for a school or schools in the district to receive a grant  
10 under the program. However, no school in any district shall receive a grant under the program unless  
11 the district designates a salaried employee to serve as the program coordinator, with the district  
12 assuming a minimum of one-half the cost of the salary and other benefits provided to the  
13 coordinator. Further, no school in any district shall receive a grant under the program unless the  
14 district makes available facilities and services for adult literacy training as specified by rule of the  
15 state board of education.

16 5. For any school that meets the requirements for the approval of the grants authorized by  
17 this section and specified in subsection 2 of this section for three successive school years, by August  
18 first following the third such school year, the commissioner of education shall present a plan to the  
19 superintendent of the school district in which such school is located for the waiver of rules and  
20 regulations to promote flexibility in the operations of the school and to enhance and encourage  
21 efficiency in the delivery of instructional services in the school. The provisions of other law to the  
22 contrary notwithstanding, the plan presented to the superintendent shall provide a summary waiver,  
23 with no conditions, for the pupil testing requirements pursuant to section 160.257 in the school.  
24 Further, the provisions of other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the plan shall detail a means for  
25 the waiver of requirements otherwise imposed on the school related to the authority of the state  
26 board of education to classify school districts pursuant to subdivision (9) of section 161.092 and such  
27 other rules and regulations as determined by the commissioner of education, except such waivers  
28 shall be confined to the school and not other schools in the school district unless such other schools  
29 meet the requirements of this subsection. However, any waiver provided to any school as outlined  
30 in this subsection shall be void on June thirtieth of any school year in which the school fails to meet  
31 the requirements for the approval of the grants authorized by this section as specified in subsection 2  
32 of this section.

33 6. For any school year, grants authorized by subsections 1 to 3 of this section shall be funded  
34 with the amount appropriated for this program, less those funds necessary to reimburse eligible  
35 students pursuant to subsection 7 of this section.

36 7.] The commissioner of higher education shall, by rule and regulation of the [state board of  
37 education] coordinating board for higher education and with the advice of the [coordinating board  
38 for higher education] state board of education, establish a procedure for the reimbursement of the  
39 cost of tuition, books and fees to any public community college or vocational or technical school or  
40 within the limits established in subsection [9] 6 of this section for any two-year private vocational or  
41 technical school for any student:

(1) Who has attended a public high school in the state for at least three years immediately prior to graduation that meets the requirements of subsection 2 of this section, except that students who are active duty military dependents, and students who are dependants of retired military who relocate to Missouri within one year of the date of the parent's retirement from active duty, who, in the school year immediately preceding graduation, meet all other requirements of this subsection and are attending a school that meets the requirements of subsection 2 of this section shall be exempt from the three-year attendance requirement of this subdivision; and

(2) Who has made a good faith effort to first secure all available federal sources of funding that could be applied to the reimbursement described in this subsection; and

(3) Who has earned a minimal grade average while in high school as determined by rule of the state board of education, and other requirements for the reimbursement authorized by this subsection as determined by rule and regulation of said board.

[8] 5. The department of higher education shall develop a procedure to permit the reimbursement of dual credit course tuition and fees taken by a student who qualifies for reimbursement under subsection 4 of this section after the student graduates from high school and has registered for postsecondary classes at a qualified institution upon the following conditions:

(1) The dual credit course is accepted for credit by the institution at which the student uses the A+ program; and

(2) The reimbursement of tuition and fees for dual credit courses shall not exceed five percent of the total appropriation for the program annually.

Reimbursement shall take the form of an amount of credit placed in the student's account at the institution which may be used for reimbursement of book purchase or rental and other academic fees under the program as determined by a rule promulgated by the coordinating board for higher education. If the reimbursement amount remains unused after the student graduates, transfers, or otherwise leaves the institution, the remaining amount shall be returned to the state treasury.

6. The commissioner of education and the commissioner of higher education shall develop a procedure for evaluating the effectiveness of the program described in this section for improving high school outcomes and for effectiveness in providing access and completion of postsecondary programs. Such evaluation shall be conducted annually with the results of the evaluation provided to the governor, speaker of the house, and president pro tempore of the senate.

[9.] 7. For a two-year private vocational or technical school to obtain reimbursements under subsection 7 of this section, the following requirements shall be satisfied:

(1) Such two-year private vocational or technical school shall be a member of the North Central Association and be accredited by the Higher Learning Commission as of July 1, 2008, and maintain such accreditation;

(2) Such two-year private vocational or technical school shall be designated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

(3) No two-year private vocational or technical school shall receive tuition reimbursements in excess of the tuition rate charged by a public community college for course work offered by the private vocational or technical school within the service area of such college; and

1           (4) The reimbursements provided to any two-year private vocational or technical school  
2 shall not violate the provisions of Article IX, Section 8, or Article I, Section 7, of the Missouri  
3 Constitution or the first amendment of the United States Constitution."; and

4  
5 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references  
6 accordingly.